

HENRY CHARLES LEVANDER, M.A., a native of Norwich, received his education at the Exeter Grammar School and at Pembroke College, Oxford. He soon distinguished himself by his extensive reading in ancient and modern languages, both eastern and western, and in mathematics, in which he graduated with honours. His power to acquire knowledge was very great, and, gifted with great determination and a very retentive memory, there was hardly any branch of science in which he was not proficient. He was some years ago appointed one of the masters of University College School. He took a special interest in astronomy, but although possessing an Equatorial, his numerous avocations did not allow him much time for making observations. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on April 12, 1872; he was also a Fellow or member of several other learned societies.

JAMES L. SHUTER was born June 21, 1819. From his early youth to his last day he took the greatest interest in all that appertained to science, being specially attached to mechanics; and he owed his position and success in life entirely to his own unaided efforts and to his untiring thirst after knowledge.

He constructed two telescopes, the larger one being of about 4 inches aperture; and he originated a considerable improvement in the geometric chuck, which is described in the *English Mechanic*, for May 30, 1884. His wife died February 16, 1883. Two daughters survive him. His only son, Mr. James Shuter, F.R.C.S., Assistant-Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's and the Royal Free Hospitals, died November 1, 1883.

Mr. Shuter was a Fellow of the Chemical Society and the Society of Arts, and a member of the Amateur Mechanical Society. He was formerly a Fellow of the Geological and Meteorological Societies.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society February 13, 1863.

FREDERICK SILVER was born at St. John's Wood, London, in 1821. He received a private education in the early part of his life, afterwards proceeding to Worcester College, Oxford, where he graduated about the year 1846.

Soon after leaving Oxford he took holy orders, and eventually held the living of Norton, Market Drayton, where he was rector for more than thirty years.

Though laying claim to no high intellectual power, he was possessed of a kind and benevolent spirit, which he exercised for the benefit of those within his circle, and especially the humbler classes. At frequent intervals he gathered in his rectory grounds large numbers of the working classes from the neighbourhood for the purpose of lectures upon botanical, geological, and kindred subjects, and also to inspect the objects in his museum, the collection of which had occupied his attention for many

years. He thus endeavoured to elevate the masses and foster an interest in things superior to their everyday surroundings. He died at Norton, Market Drayton, on August 28, 1884.

His only child, a son, graduated at Christ Church, Oxford, but died shortly after taking holy orders.

Mr. Silver was for many years a Fellow of the Linnaean, Royal Geographical, Geological, and Meteorological Societies.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on May 11, 1855.

ISAAC TODHUNTER was born in 1820, and was the second son of a Congregationalist minister at Rye. Passing over his boyhood we find him an assistant-master in a school at Peckham, and at the same time attending the evening classes at University College, and among others the lectures of De Morgan. Here he seems to have come under the fascination which so many of the pupils of that great teacher experienced. His admiration for that mathematician was unbounded. He obtained great distinction in the University of London, carrying off the honours at the degrees of B.A. and M.A. He afterwards entered the University of Cambridge, and became Senior Wrangler and first Smith's Prizeman in 1848.

In the same year in which he took his degree he gained the Burney Prize. According to the regulations this prize is to be awarded for an English essay, to a graduate of the University who is not of more than three years' standing from admission to his first degree. His essay was printed in 1849 under the title "The doctrine of a Divine Providence is inseparable from the belief in the existence of an absolutely perfect Creator."

Soon after taking his degree he established himself at St John's College as a mathematical tutor and lecturer, but afterwards he gave up all share in the tuition of his college and devoted himself more and more to the work of writing books.

The great work of Dr. Todhunter's life lies in the part he has taken in the education of this generation. A detailed account of the numerous educational books he has written would be too long for so slight a sketch of his life as the present. His books conduct the student from the beginning through a long course of mathematical learning. A simple list of these is a history of the labours of his life; as the dates run on we see his time filled up with correcting one edition after another.

In constructing his books, he seems to have discovered that, for the teaching of boys, novelties would be out of place. What was wanted in any subject was a short and accurate account of the things then known. The object was to put the reader as quickly as possible in possession of all the knowledge which was most likely to be useful to him afterwards. Accordingly he gives in his books a clear statement of the well-known principles of each subject, arranged in a logical order. Each step in the argument is explained at length in clear English. Nothing is assumed but what a reader should know. Every page makes it